

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-7, 9-21, 23, and 25 that were pending in the application, claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 14, 20, 21, 23, and 25 were rejected in the Office Action. By way of this Amendment, Applicant has: (a) amended claims 2, 4, and 10; and (b) canceled claim 3, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-21, 23, and 25 remain pending for further consideration.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant greatly appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 5-7, 12, 13, and 15-19. In response to this positive indication, claim 2 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 5-7, 12, 13, and 15-19 depend) has been amended to be in independent claim format. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-7, 12, 13, and 15-19 should be in condition for allowance.

2. Rejection of Claims 3, 4, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 based on an allegedly improper recitation in claim 3 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 4 and 10 depended). Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot due as: (a) claim 3 has been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer; and (b) claims 4 and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, a withdrawal of this rejection is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

3. Rejections of Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 14, 20, 21, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner rejected: (a) claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 20, 21, 23, and 25 as allegedly being obvious when considering JP 9-118215 (“Hideaki”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,458,150 (“Tamaoki”); and (b) claim 11 as allegedly being obvious when considering Hideaki in view of Tamaoki and WO 00/70628 (“Heise”). Preliminarily, the aforementioned rejection of claim 3 is now moot due to its cancellation herein, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the aforementioned rejections will be addressed, and respectfully traversed, with respect to claims 1, 4, 9-11, 14, 20, 21, 23, and 25.

As previously presented, claim 1 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claims 4, 9-11, and 21 depend) recites an electromagnetic valve unit. The electromagnetic valve unit includes, among other possible things (*italic and underline emphasis added*):

a yoke of magnetic metal, the yoke comprising upper and lower walls that are integrally connected by side walls;
a slit provided in the upper wall of the yoke, the slit extending along a longitudinal axis of the yoke between axially opposed ends of the yoke; and
a plurality of electromagnetic valves abreast installed in the yoke in such a manner that the yoke constitutes outside magnetic paths of solenoid coils of the valves,
wherein each solenoid coil has terminal members that project outward from the yoke through the slit,
wherein the terminal members of every pair of the electromagnetic valves, which face each other with respect to the longitudinal axis of the yoke, are arranged close to one another and face one another, and
wherein the lower wall of the yoke comprises two axially extending wall portions that extend along the side walls respectively and a middle portion through which the two axially extending wall portions are integrally connected.

Similarly, as previously presented, claim 14 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claim 23 depends) recites an electromagnetic valve unit. The electromagnetic valve unit includes, among other possible things (*italic and underline emphasis added*):

a yoke of magnetic metal, the yoke comprising upper and lower walls that are integrally connected by side walls;
a slit provided in the upper wall of the yoke, the slit extending along a longitudinal axis of the yoke between axially opposed ends of the yoke; and
a plurality of electromagnetic valves abreast installed in the yoke in such a manner that the yoke constitutes outside magnetic paths of solenoid coils of the valves,
wherein each solenoid coil has terminal members that project outward from the yoke through the slit,
wherein the solenoid coils of the electromagnetic valves are arranged along the longitudinal axis forming a given number of pairs of the coils along the longitudinal axis,
wherein the terminal members of every pair of the electromagnetic valves, which face each other with respect to the longitudinal axis of the yoke, are arranged close to one another and face one another, and
wherein the lower wall of the yoke comprises two axially extending wall portions that extend along the side walls respectively and a middle portion through which the two axially extending wall portions are integrally connected.

Finally, as previously presented, claim 20 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claim 25 depends) recites an antilock brake system for a wheeled motor vehicle. The antilock brake system includes, among other possible things (*italic and underline emphasis added*):

a fluid line extending between a master cylinder of a brake pedal and brake cylinders of road wheels; and

an electromagnetic valve unit arranged in the fluid line to selectively open and close the passage of the fluid line, the electromagnetic valve unit comprising:

- a yoke of magnetic metal, the yoke comprising upper and lower walls that are integrally connected by side walls;
- a slit provided in the upper wall of the yoke, the slit extending along a longitudinal axis of the yoke between axially opposed ends of the yoke; and
- a plurality of electromagnetic valves abreast installed in the yoke in such a manner that the yoke constitutes outside magnetic paths of solenoid coils of the valves,

wherein each solenoid coil has terminal members that project outward from the yoke through the slit,

wherein the terminal members of every pair of the electromagnetic valves, which face each other with respect to the longitudinal axis of the yoke, are arranged close to one another and face one another, and

wherein the lower wall of the yoke comprises two axially extending wall portions that extend along the side walls respectively and a middle portion through which the two axially extending wall portions are integrally connected.

As hereafter explained, no combination of Hideaki, Tamaoki, and/or Heise teaches or suggests the electromagnetic valve units recited in claims 1 and 14 or the antilock brake system recited in claim 20.

In rejecting independent claims 1, 14, and 20, the Examiner admits that Hideaki “lacks the disclosure of an integral middle portion connecting the wall portions of the lower wall.” *See* Office Action at pp. 3-4. The Examiner asserts that the Abstract, col. 1, lines 37-41, and Figure 4 of Tamaoki can be used to cure this admitted deficiency of Hideaki. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Tamaoki’s Abstract recites “a plurality of solenoid valves integrally arranged on the yoke.” This statement in the Abstract is clearly not analogous to the above-italicized/underlined limitations of claims 1, 14, and 20. Specifically, the fact that Tamaoki teaches “a plurality of solenoid valves integrally arranged on the yoke” has no bearing on whether a bottom wall of Tamaoki’s yoke 4, 5 has “two axially extending wall portions that extend along the side walls respectively and a middle portion through which the two axially extending wall portions are integrally connected.” As a result, Tamaoki’s Abstract can not be used to cure Hideaki’s deficiencies.

With respect to the passage in col. 1, lines 37-41 of Tamaoki, Applicant respectfully notes that this passage cites a “need for a smaller solenoid valve device since the mounting space of the automotive vehicle is limited.” This statement, however, does not in and of itself suggest a solution to the stated problem. In other words, this statement does not suggest

providing a bottom wall of a yoke that has a middle portion and two axially extending wall portions that are “integrally connected” by the middle portion. As a result, col. 1, lines 37-41 of Tamaoki also can not be used to cure Hideaki’s deficiencies.

Similarly, with respect to Figure 4 of Tamaoki, Applicant respectfully notes an unlabeled portion (adjacent slit 8a) that apparently integrally connects two portions of the top wall (*i.e.*, the side through the metal cores 26, 36 of valve units 2A, 3A project) of the yoke 4. *See* col. 8, lines 19-21. In contrast, claims 1, 14, and 20 recite that it is the lower wall of the yoke that includes integrally connected wall portions. As a result, Figure 4 of Tamaoki also can not be used to cure Hideaki’s deficiencies.

In addition to the foregoing, it is respectfully noted that Heise also can not be used to cure the deficiencies of Hideaki for at least the reasons previously set forth in the Amendment and Reply filed on March 28, 2006, which arguments are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

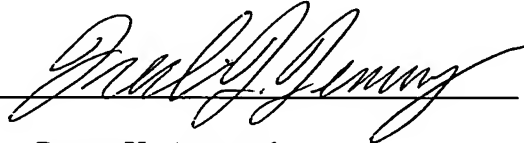
For at least the aforementioned reasons, the combination of Hideaki, Tamaoki, and Heise fails to teach or suggest at least the above-italicized limitations of claims 1, 14, and 20. Accordingly, the combination of Hideaki, Tamaoki, and Heise can not be used to reject claims 1, 14, or 20, or any claim dependent thereon, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Moreover, as claims 4, 9-11, and 21 depend from claim 1, as claim 23 depends from claim 14, and as claim 25 depends from claim 20, each of these dependent claims is also allowable over the combination of Hideaki, Tamaoki, and Heise, without regard to the other patentable limitations recited therein. Therefore, a withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4, 9-11, 14, 20, 21, 23, and 25 under § 103(a) is both warranted and earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-21, 23, and 25 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HERewith, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HERewith, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.